

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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Location and Size

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Plovdiv airfield is located in the southeastern outskirts of Plovdiv and on the northeast side of the Plovdiv-Asenovgrad highway. It is bounded by the Plovdiv bicycle racing grounds on the northwest and by the Aleksandur Stamboliyski State farm on the southeast. An irrigation ditch runs from the airfield to the farm. The airfield extends approximately 1,500 meters along the Plovdiv-Asenovgrad highway and is 1,200 to 1,300 meters deep.

Runway and Planes

2. The runway is covered with grass and extends from northwest to southeast. Jets never land here and the planes always take-off and land along the northwest diagonal of the field. The runway has no drainage system and after heavy rains the eastern part of the runway is covered with water and mud which makes it practically useless.
3. At the beginning of 1958 the following planes were at the airfield:
 - a. 30 to 35 BEAST and COACH planes belonging to the Attack Bomber Regiment stationed at the airfield.
 - b. Approximately 20 propeller planes of the LAS, MULE and Gulub types.
 - c. Five to six gliders belonging to the Dobrovolna Organizatsiya za Sudeistvie na Otbrana (DOSO).¹

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Security

4. There are no fences around the field. Along the Plovdiv-Asenovgrad highway at the southwest side of the field there is a thick hedge. Guards are stationed at the following places on the field:
 - a. One guard at the main entrance on the road from the Plovdiv-Asenovgrad highway at the southwest side of the field. The gate over the road has two large doors for vehicles and one smaller door for pedestrians.
 - b. Guardhouse beside the entrance to the plane repair shop which is southeast of the main entrance and off the Plovdiv-Asenovgrad highway. This entrance has a double gate.
 - c. Guardhouse, 8 x 4 meters in size, southeast of the fuel tanks on the airfield. One guard on duty in the area of the fuel tanks.

Fuel and Water Supply

5. The area for fuel storage is in the northwest corner of the field and the fuel is stored in three tanks under roofs, each of the tanks have a 50-ton capacity. An unknown number of barrels are stored in the open.
6. The water for the field is supplied by a well and pump located in a building, 12 x 6 meters in size, west of the road through the field from the main entrance.

Attack Bomber Division

7. In early July 1958 Plovdiv Airfield was occupied by the headquarters of an attack bomber division, an attack bomber regiment which consisted of two battalions,² and the headquarters of the supply battalion subordinate to the attack bomber regiment. The buildings occupied by the attack bomber division are located on both sides of the road inside the field. Some of the buildings are:
 - a. Division Headquarters are situated in a two-story brick building, 30 x 10 meters in size, with yellow walls and a red tile roof, which is on the west side of the road. There is a weather station tower on the roof of this building.
 - b. Three hangars, each 30 x 10 meters in size, used by the attack bomber regiment are located on the east side of the road.
 - c. Offices of the attack bomber regiment are located in two two-story brick buildings, 10 x 6 meters in size, on the east side of the road. One of these has a weather station on the roof.
 - d. The barracks, mess halls, dispensary, clubs and athletic grounds of the division and its subsidiary units are located on the west side of the road.
8. The Supply Battalion is located in a one-story brick building, 120 x 200 meters in size, which has a large inside yard and is located at the northeastern end of the field.

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9. The plane repair shop is located in a hangar, 20 x 10 meters in size, in the southern corner of the field near the garage for motor vehicles. Next to it is an installation for checking plane engines and workshops in a building, 12 x 6 meters in size. The repair shop can handle minor repairs of propeller planes and engines.
10. The radio installations of the field are in a one-story brick building, 8 x 4 meters in size. Several antennas are on the roof of the building, which is located in the northeast section of the field.

DOSO and TABSO Facilities

11. The DOSO and TABSO facilities are located around the main entrance to the airfield as follows:
 - a. TABSO offices in a building next to and southeast of the main entrance. A weather station is on the roof of the building.
 - b. DOSO hangar, with 20 propeller planes and five to six gliders, northeast of the main entrance along the airfield road.
 - c. Restaurant for civilian members of TABSO and TABSO waiting room in a building next to and northwest of the main entrance.
 - d. Apartment house for airfield personnel in a building next to and northwest of TABSO restaurant.

Planned Deactivation of Attack Bomber Division

12. In connection with the overall reduction of the Bulgarian Armed Forces which was announced at the beginning of the summer of 1958, a special order was issued at the end of June 1958 covering the deactivation of the Attack Bomber Division³ which would be completed by 15 September 1958 and consist of the following:
 - a. Deactivation of all Air Force units at Plovdiv airfield.
 - b. Dismissal of all Air Force personnel at Plovdiv airfield or transfer to other airfields.
 - c. Junking of all Air Force planes at Plovdiv airfield.
 - d. Transfer of all Air Force buildings to DOSO, TABSO and Vasil Kolarov Agricultural University in Plovdiv.

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Comments:

1. TABSO planes only transit this field and no planes are permanently based here. 25X1
2. The other battalion of the attack bomber regiment is stationed at Levskigrad Airfield. 25X1
3. Comment: [redacted] the planned reduction of the Bulgarian Armed Forces would not take place because of the Middle East situation. 25X1

[redacted] as an attachment to this report is a sketch of Plovdiv airfield with an attached legend.

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ATTACHMENT

LEGEND TO SKETCH OF PLOVDIV AIRFIELD

1. Plovdiv-Asenovgrad highway.
2. Plovdiv bicycle racing grounds.
3. Aleksandur Stamboliyski State Farm.
4. Irrigation canal.
5. Boundary of the airfield; there is no fence.
6. Hedge.
7. Main entrance; gate with two big doors for vehicles and a smaller one for pedestrians.
8. Sentry at the main entrance.
9. Decorative water pool.
10. Restaurant for the civilian passengers of TABSO used also as waiting rooms.
11. Apartment house used by the personnel staff of the airfield.
12. Offices of the TABSO with a weather station on the roof.
13. Area where the Civil Transport planes stop for taking on passengers.
14. Entrance for the airplane repair shop, with a double gate.
15. Guardhouse.
16. Airplane repair shop - (hangar).
17. Workshops of the repair shop.
18. Installation for checking the engines.
19. Entrance for the garage.
20. Garage for motor vehicles.
21. Runway.
22. Playground.
23. Former railroad line; now only the embankment exists.
24. Old hangar; now a guard house and garage for motor vehicles.
25. Hangar; used by the DCSO's Bomber Regiment.
26. Hangars used by the Attack Bomber Regiment.
27. Two-story brick building used for offices of the Regiment. It has a weather station on the roof.
28. Two-story brick building used for offices of the Regiment.
29. HQ of the Attack Bomber Division.
30. Two-story brick building with dark yellow walls and red tile roof. The first floor is used for soldiers' dining mess and the second one for pilots' restaurant and club.
31. Soldiers' dormitories; two-story brick building.
32. Hospital and medical service; one-story brick building.
33. Water supply system; well, pump and reservoir.
34. Supply Battalion; one-story brick building with a large inside yard.
35. Guard House.
36. POL's.
37. Radio installations.

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PLOVDIV AIRFIELD

